


 In our childhood
 happy day,
 Long ago,
 When we loved to
 romp and play
 In the snow,
 When our laughter
 was so glad.

A ← PREMATURE VALENTINE

so small and cozy was it. They had agreed that it was just the right size which was a sensible way of looking

To be sure, the parlor was also a sitting-room and library, but Clarissa deft fingers had transformed it into a veritable shrine. The pretty ingrain carpet made one think of a bed of moss and the white and gold damask curtains and the white and gold brocade sofa draped artistically at the sides, and tied with loops of white ribbon. A handsome yellow jardiniere with a tall pot stood in one window and a hanging basket in the other window hung with flowers. There were picture books galore, and in one corner a guitar spoke eloquently of the taste of the owners.

When it had been announced that Clarissa was going to teach in the school, her numerous friends were indignant. "Of all persons Clarissa Roberts was the last one of whom I would have thought it," was the protest. I. Clarissa remained serene and won-

Tim Sage, the youth of whom mention has been made, had a superabundance of spirits, and one day the overflowed. Clarissa reprimanded him quietly several times, and finally when he created a sensation by producing angleworms from the depths of a mysterious pocket, with which he frightened the girls, she took the youngster in hand.

"Tim," said she, sternly, "you must remain after school."

It was then that a settlement took place, and being of a sullen disposition,

Clarissa opened one after another and smiled at the effusion of some of the valentines, for she knew they came from the hands of her girl pupils who were devoted to it.

She came to the last one that was addressed in a masculine hand which she could not mistake, and a faint hue of pink came into her cheeks. She hastily tore the envelope open and read:

"Salem, Va., Feb. 14, 1896.

"Dear Miss Roberts: It must be that you have discovered the love I bear you and that I have been obliged to come to hide. I have watched you from day to day, hoping that I would see some reason for my way, but I have not been appointed, for I believe it is returned. Believe me that this is not my fault, but that I have loved you from the first that my love is reciprocated, and therefore I ask you to be my valentine, and make me happy."

"Your sincere admirer and Valentine.

Clarissa's fingers trembled, and her eyes flashed threateningly, but she said a word and she was obliged to her to her eyes, she read it slowly and then re-

Then going to her writing desk she took out a slip of paper on which a report was written, and signed by the mother. The young correspondents there was no denying the fact, and the two women were silent until a knock on the door startled them and Clarissa darted into another room.

"A box of flowers," said her mother; "shall I open it?"

An exquisite bunch of violets nestled among the green leaves, delighted the beauty-loving eyes of the girl, and the delicate odor soothed her tired nerves. She had not noticed the card, but then it lay and she read: "James W. Spence sends his wishes."

The innocent flowers smiled, but Clarissa did not notice; their beauty was spoiled now.

Replacing the cover, she curiously examined the cover, and wrote a hurried note of thanks, and sent it away to be forwarded her, but said she could not accept them after his present

interest and when she went to teaching as a means of livelihood, he knew that her character was not weak or flimsy. While walking towards the Roberts cottage his heart warmed toward Clarissa, and in spite of her rebuff he made several resolutions.

As he neared the house he saw a pretty little domestic picture, of Clarissa with a colony of kittens in her lap and their mother at her feet, was enjoying it, unconscious of an audience.

Mrs. Spencer felt guilty, but he could not help gazing at the tableau before knocking. Mrs. Roberts admitted him.

that he was the victim of a practical joke. The poor girl covered her face and cried: "Who could be so cruel?" Then it was Mr. Spencer's turn to play comforter. "Do you feel so very badly. Miss Roberts?" said he. "Part of the note at least is true, in regard to my feeling toward you; but it seems so very foolish now. I never got ahead of me and paved the way roughly."

It is needless to go into details. The tangle adjusted itself easily and Mr. Spencer and Carlissa arranged matters very satisfactorily; so much so that when another Valentine was sent, it was not to Tim's name, but to Carlissa's, thanks to Tim's inimitable copying. As no one ever scolded the incorrigible boy, he thought the joke was too tame and therefore was disgusted with himself. It is needless to say that, of course, Mr. Spencer and Carlissa never took the opportunity to correct him.—Louise E. Dew, in Ohio Farmer.

A black and white line drawing of a woman standing in a room. She is wearing a long, high-collared dress with puffed sleeves and a full skirt. She is holding a small, folded piece of paper or a letter in her hands. In the background, there is a framed picture on the wall depicting a landscape with a windmill, and a piece of furniture, possibly a sofa or bed, with a patterned coverlet.

tioned off the couple who had the greatest number were proclaimed the king and queen of hearts, and an American Beauty, certainly the queen of roses, was presented to each. The two who were least successful were given small heart-shaped boxes filled with the tiniest of red candy hearts.

A CONFESSION.



marked to her escort in the hearing of her dignified and somewhat astonished parents: "We will take the Astor-terrogh avenue cars. My father won't let me say dam."

The Troubadour's Valentine.
He warbled 'neath her window;
thus were joy and business blent;
then sold the song which told his
love, and was not out one cent.—
Indianapolis Journal.

Depends on Circumstances.
Dear girl, I send this valentine
To tell thee for thy love I pine,
But already I am weary of it,
Please view it as a merry joke.

Confusing Reports and Rumors Regarding the Shipping and Their Significance.

But no one should jump to the conclusion that the correspondents are a sensational lot who are continually inventing stories for the mere purpose of creating excitement. The shiftings are a natural, not to say an inevitable, result of the lobby and other influences which are continually filling the air about the capital with conflicting sounds, those of one kind predominating one day and of another locality those of another kind the following day in the same or a different locality.

There are, of course, many very severe, and there are the alternations of apparent prospects usual in such cases. One day those interested on one side relax, while those on the other reproach their exertions; the next day the order is reversed. It is the business of the correspondent to record the succeeding changes, and not to conform according to his notions of what the situation ought to be, or his prophetic views of what it eventually will be.

Those who are interested in the

There is a possibility, however, that even if a vote could be reached on the proposition, it would vote in the negative to defeat it. Some western senators may fear the people of their own states more than the president or the party bosses in congress.—Chicago Chronicle.

A HUGE BLUNDER.

Impossible System of Government the Administration Is Trying in the Philippines.

Secretary Root either is trying to throw dust in the eyes of congress and the people, or has his own eyes full of dust. After moving heaven and earth to get 70,000 troops for use in the Philippines, imploring congress to pass the army bill so as to prevent a military disaster, he now coolly reports that the Philippine commission thinks "disturbing

government!" Why does he not make public Gen. MacArthur's reports? It was upon them that Senator Sewell planted himself when he

power. Another thing which glazes us in the report is the huge blunder of government made in undertaking, under the treaty of Paris, to guarantee the land titles of the friars. To do this Luzon Taft now says, would throw Luzon into convulsions, and he calmly recommends that the United States buy the friars out. In other words more millions are to be flung into the Philippine rat hole. Meanwhile, the amiable gentleman in the white house "earnestly recommends" that congress pull him out of the pit which his own hands have dugged. But how can congress legislate, till it knows what it

dealing with these people, we fail to understand why he wants congress to give him any more authority. On the outside the constitution, there is nothing to check him.—Chattanooga News

The troubles gathering about Mark Hanna and his subsidy bill are increasing with the "process of the suns." Nearly every new senator who has been elected will be against the subsidy bill if it goes over to the next session. The new ones who have come in the senate this session in the place of those removed by death or to fill vacancies are not in favor of Hanna's

Strong Opposition to the Ship Subsidy Bill Making Advocates Uneasy.

Their endorsement is doubtful. They should stimulate its opponents to keep up their efforts and look out for tricks designed to bring the bill for the subsidy to a majority by the most favorable position. It has been made manifest during the session that the sentiment of the vast middle west and of a considerable proportion of all other parts of the country is unalterably opposed to the subsidy plan. Among those who are not actively opposed to it, another class is either apathetic or not fully informed as to the character and purpose of the measure. The active support of the bill comes from the interests to be benefited and from the handful of senators who have taken it upon themselves to endorse those interests with a rich immunity from outside criticism. The measure is thus fairly a contest of public sentiment against private interests, and the fact that the latter are sufficiently powerful to fight their battles on anything like equal terms is in itself unpleasantly suggestive of the influence of private interests have gained over the senate. Were

**Affairs in the Philippines
Now Coming Out.**

One cannot help wondering whether we are to have a great popular reaction in this country on the Philippine issue. After long delay, the truth concerning the condition of affairs in the Philippine archipelago is gradually coming to the knowledge of the American people. The American people, it is surmised, find this truth to be widely at variance with the statements made by those who have been officially responsible for our Philippine policy. In view of this now ascertained condition, what confidence we have against the American people to ask such utterances of those who have sought in an apparently willful manner, thus deceive them?

How far can human credulity go? How much better are we than the misguided people of Spain, who for years ago believed in the plan of a blind submission by the official

been fought with the Cuban guerrillas and the immense victories that Spanish troops had won? At that time those Americans who commented on

in keeping its people ignorant and, in what way is it possible to have a government of the people, by the people and for the people carried on by men who are grossly deceived concerning important public matters. It bays our imagination to understand.—*Exton Herald (Ind.)*.

WE HAVE IMPERIALISM NOW

Rule by Military Force Is Already a Fact in This "Free" Country.

Senator Teller is right in saying that imperialism is not a fear, but

"These men are the military islands of the United States," said the senator. "Under the military, there is no right there undoubtedly, but under God's law, which is higher than that, there is no place there at all."

"And so you are saying," he said, "that you are against militarism?"

"Militarism has come; it is there in its worst form, and what I want to know is the senator from Maryland (Mr. Vawter), is, what are you going to do now? Are you going to do anything?"

"No," he said. "I am going to continue to govern 12,000,000 people contrary to their wish, without a voice, without being heard when your country is in peril."

"I tell you that the people are against this administration," he said. "Every Filipino in Europe to-day, and there are thousands of them, is against our administration."

THE CONQUEST.

Rate Excursions, good until June the first, permitting invalids and others to stop at first-class hotels enroute at very nominal rates to all points in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, Cuba, Central and South

Sweat and fruit acids will not discolor goods dyed with PUTNAM FADELESS DYES. Sold by all druggists.

Love can make us friends as well as angels. Kingsley.

THE NERVES



"I am so nervous and w
fly." How familiar these
annoy you and make you ir
unfit for ordinary duties, and
That bearing-down sens
miserable.

You have backache and
in top of head, later on at
Such a condition point
trouble.

If you had written to M
perienced impaired vitality,
these hours of awful sufferi
Happiness will be gone o
unless you act promptly.

Vegetable Compound can
help you. Then write to M
there is anything about you
You need not be afraid t
not explain to the doctor—y
and is absolutely confident

Mrs. Valentine Tells of H.
Lydie E. Pinkham

\$5000 REWARD deposited with which will be testimonial writer's agent.

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WET! THE FISH BRAND

Oiled Clothing

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WILL KEEP YOU DRY

NOTHING ELSE WILL

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A. J. TOWER CO. BOSTON. MASS.

sador to Great Britain, on the career and character of Abraham Lincoln—his early life—his early struggles with the world—his character as developed in the later years of his life and his administration, which

Husband—"What makes you stand all this nonsense and impudence from the stamp on it. Beware of imitations."
Wife—"She does."—Philadelphia Record.

OF WOMEN



A black and white illustration of a woman's face and upper body. She has dark, wavy hair and is looking down with a somber or thoughtful expression. Her right hand is raised to her forehead, with fingers spread. She is wearing a dark, patterned garment. The background is dark and textured.


You have backache and pains low down in the side, pain in top of head, later on at the base of the brain.

Such a condition points unerringly to serious uterine trouble.

If you had written to Mrs. Pinkham when you first experienced impaired vitality, you would have been spared these hours of awful suffering.

Mrs. Valentine Tells of Happy Results Accomplished by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—It is with pleasure that I add my testimony to your list, hoping it may induce others to avail themselves of the benefit of your valuable remedy. Before taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, I felt very bad, was terribly nervous and tired, had sick headaches, no appetite, gnawing pain in stomach, pain in my back and right side, and so weak I could scarcely stand. I was not able to do anything. Had terrible pains all through my body. Before I had taken half a bottle of your medicine, I found myself improving. I continued its use until I had taken four bottles, and felt so well that I did not need to take any more. I am like a new person, and your medicine shall always have my praise."—MRS. W. P. VALENTINE, 566 Ferry Avenue, Camden, N. J.



A black and white portrait of a woman, Mrs. W. P. Valentine, looking slightly to the right. She has dark hair and is wearing a high-collared dress. The portrait is enclosed in a rectangular frame.

MRS. W. P. VALENTINE

deposited with the National City Bank, New York, and the balance, which will be paid to any person who can show that the above testimonial is not genuine, or was published before obtaining the writer's special permission.—LYDIA E. PINKHAM MEDICINE CO.

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tobacco
with a
conscience
behind it.

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sells on its merits.

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